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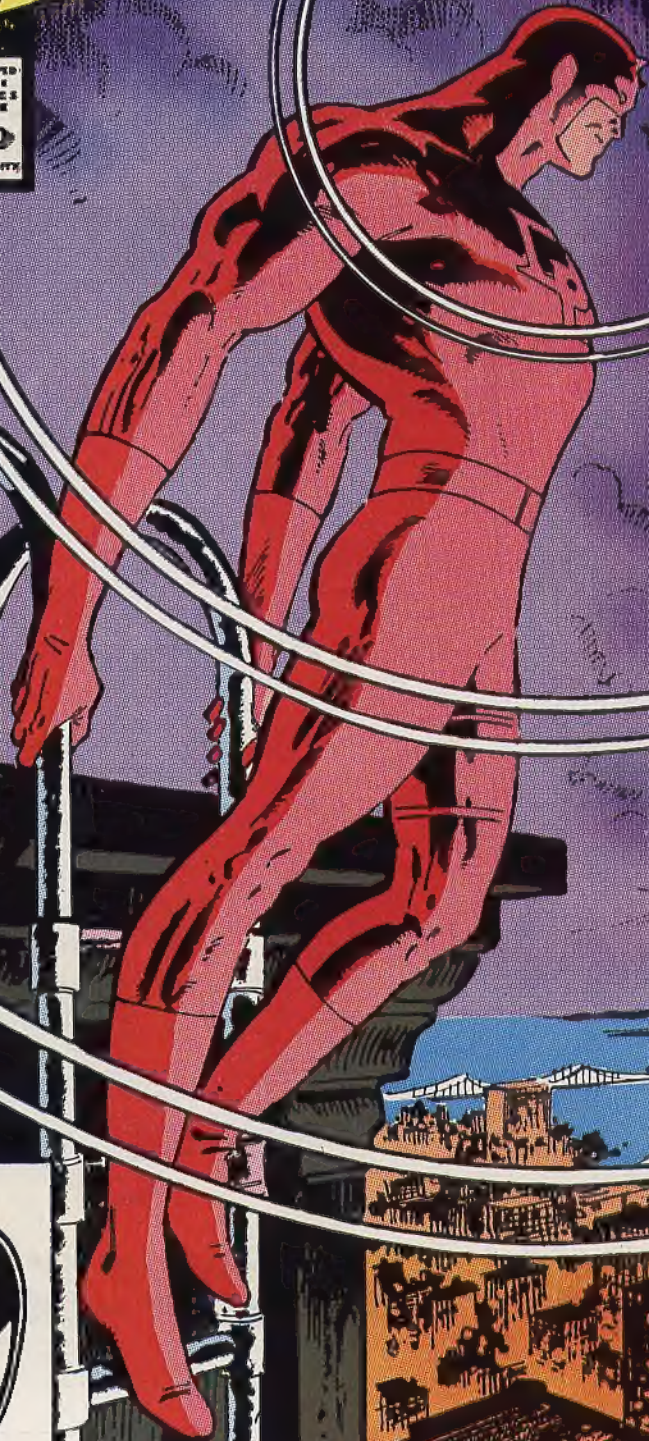
UK 40p

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AUTHORITY

# DAREDEVIL



ZECK JAWSON





DOORWAYS GAG WITH WREATHS AND CANDY CANES, WINDOWS CHOKE WITH BELLS AND DIME STORE JESUSES, FIRE-ESCAPES ARE STRANGLING IN TWISTING LIGHTS, WALLS SUFFOCATE IN GREETING CARDS AND TINSEL, PEOPLE DRIP WITH COLORFUL SCARFS AND REINDEER PINS, THEIR STOMACHS GLUTTED WITH FRUITCAKE AND SUGAR PLUMS AND MINCEMEAT PIE...

IT'S CHRISTMAS EVE IN HELL'S KITCHEN.

HELP FEED THE POOR, MONEY FOR THE HOMELESS!

GOD BLESS YOU ALL!

HO HO HO, FEEL THE SPIRIT OF GIVING!

GIVE SANTA YOUR SPARE CHANGE --

-- AND KEEP SOME POOR CHILD FROM GETTING COAL IN HIS STOCKING!

# STAN LEE Presents: BLACK CHRISTMAS

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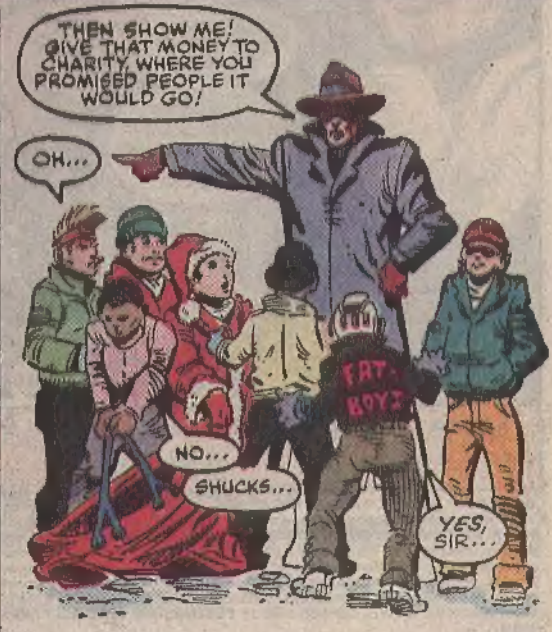
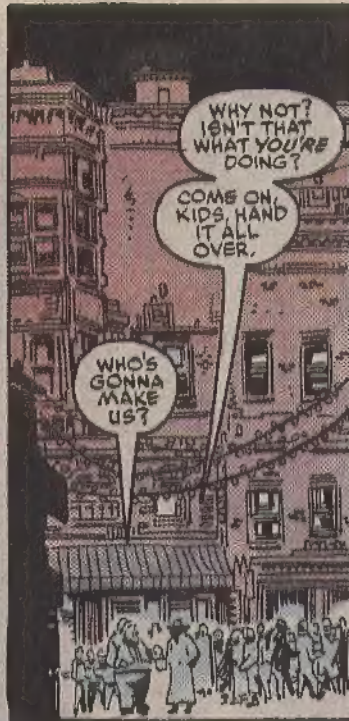
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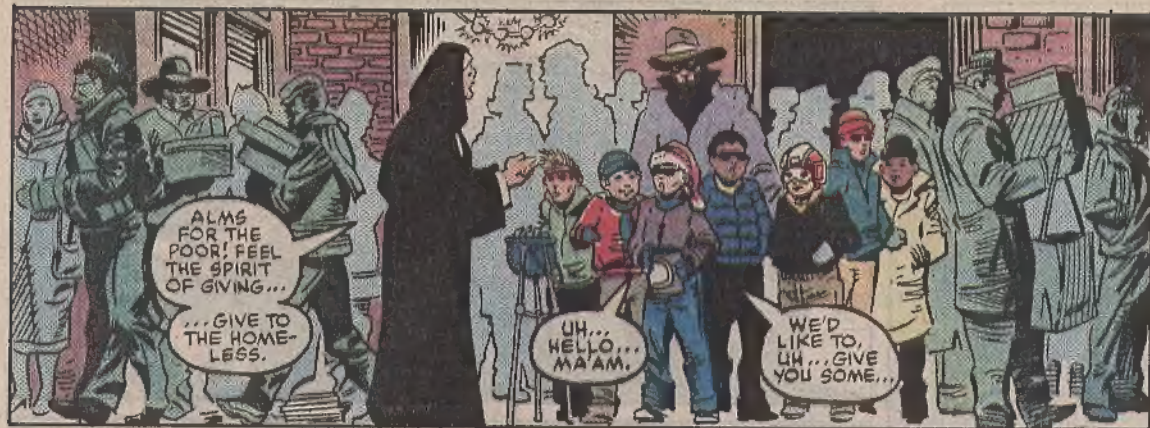
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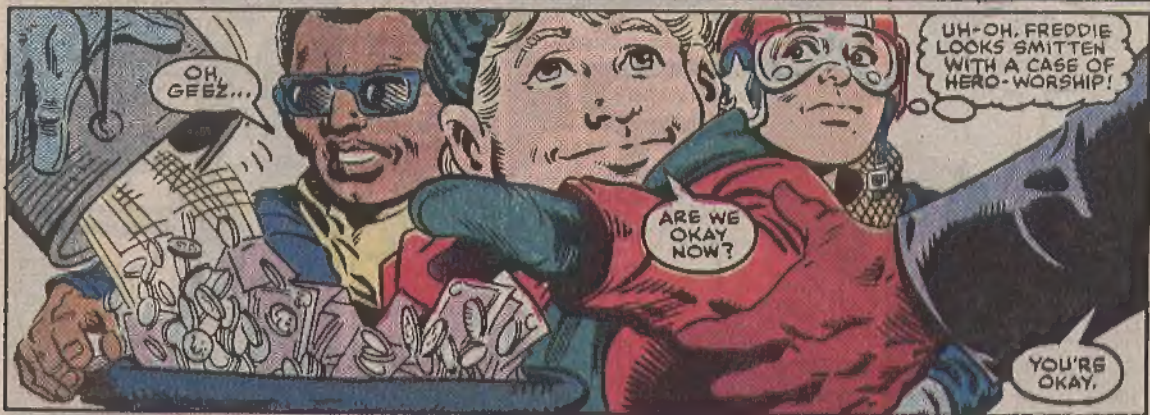


ALMS  
FOR THE  
POOR! FEEL  
THE SPIRIT  
OF GIVING...

... GIVE TO  
THE HOME-  
LESS.

UH...  
HELLO...  
MA'AM.

WE'D  
LIKE TO,  
UH... GIVE  
YOU SOME...

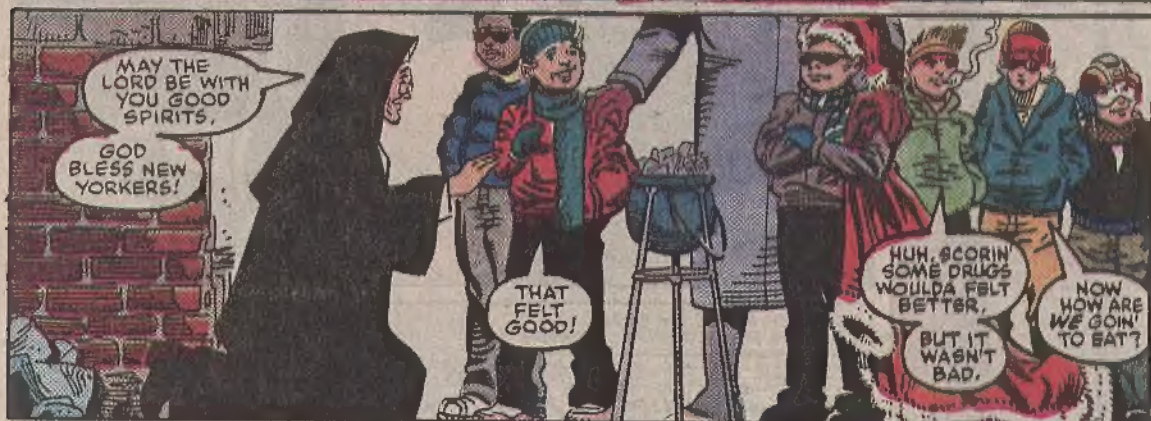


OH  
GEEZ...

ARE WE  
OKAY  
NOW?

UH-OH. FREDDIE  
LOOKS SMITTEN  
WITH A CASE OF  
HERO-WORSHIP!

YOU'RE  
OKAY.



MAY THE  
LORD BE WITH  
YOU GOOD  
SPIRITS.

GOD  
BLESS NEW  
YORKERS!

THAT  
FELT  
GOOD!

HUH. SCORIN'  
SOME DRUGS  
WOULDA FELT  
BETTER.

BUT IT  
WASN'T  
BAD.

NOW  
HOW ARE  
WE GOIN'  
TO EAT?



OKAY, YOU BOYS SHOULD  
BE HOME IN BED! TO-  
MORROW'S A SPECIAL  
DAY! PRESENTS, AND  
ALL THAT...

YEAH, RIGHT, UH-HUH,  
PRESENTS... SURE.

CHRISTMAS  
IS OKAY. DAD  
GETS SO DRUNK  
HE PASSES  
OUT.

WELL, THAT COVERS  
THE RENTAL ON THE  
NUN SUIT.

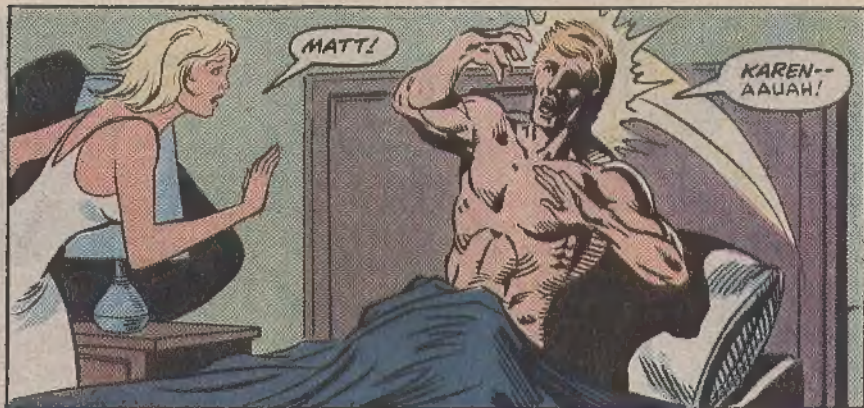
FROM  
HERE ON,  
IT'S PURE  
PROFIT!

GOD  
BLESS  
ME!



GOOD MORNING,  
NEW YORK.

MERRY  
CHRISTMAS.



KAREN?!

NO, KAREN--  
PLEASE...  
KAREN!



THE WAY YOU  
YELLED--  
SOUNDED LIKE  
YOU WERE SO  
ANGRY AT ME!

AT YOU?  
NEVER!



OOPS! OH, HONEY, I'M SORRY, WHY DO  
I ALWAYS FORGET YOU'RE *BLIND*?

BECAUSE I 'SEE' SO WELL. WITH  
MY SUPER-HEIGHTENED SENSES,  
I WOULD HAVE *SMELLED* THE  
SNOW. OR MY RADAR WOULD  
HAVE PICKED IT UP.

LUCKY  
YOU.

IN FACT,  
I'M THE  
ONLY GUY  
IN THE  
WORLD  
WHO CAN  
HEAR  
SNOW  
FALL-  
ING!

LUCKY  
ME.

HEY, KAREN, WHAT  
DID YOU GET ME  
FOR CHRISTMAS?

JUST THIS  
RIGHT HERE...



AND IN A 42ND STREET HOTEL ROOM...

WHO ARE YOU?

YOU'VE HAD SO MANY ALIASES, I'VE FORGOTTEN YOUR ORIGINAL NAME.

NO ONE KNOWS YOUR NAME.

BUT EVERYONE HAS HEARD OF--

THE TRIKTER!

THAT MAN IS FAMOUS FOR HIS TRICKS, HIS ILLUSIONS, HIS MASTERY OF DISGUISE!

WHAT A LUCKY MAN HE MUST BE!

DOES IT MATTER, THAT I AM THE TRIKTER?

POP!

SNAP

I LAYERED MY LIFE WITH SO MANY NAMES AND FACES AND STUNTS AND GAMES-- HOW DID I EVER BELIEVE THAT WAS A WORTHWHILE WAY TO SPEND A LIFE?

I AM WORLD FAMOUS...

...YET NO ONE EVEN KNOWS MY TRUE NAME.

AND HERE IT IS, CHRISTMAS, AND I'M ALONE WITH MY TWO-BIT TRICKS AND TIN TROPHIES.

THE MASTER OF DISGUISE HID HIMSELF FROM HIMSELF... JUST AS I'M MAKING THIS TROPHY SEEM TO VANISH.

THIS DAREDEVIL-- I HAVE ENJOYED WATCHING HIS CAREER.

HE IS A BIT OF A TRICKSTER, A STUNTMAN. YET WHILE I CHOSE TO DAZZLE PEOPLE--

--HE CHOSE TO SAVE THEM.

WHY DO TWO MEN SO SIMILAR, CHOOSE DIFFERENT PATHS?

I WONDER--IF I GOT UP REAL CLOSE AND LOOKED INTO THIS DAREDEVIL'S HEART-- COULD I SEE WHAT MAKES ONE MAN A HERO AND ANOTHER A FOOL?

IT WOULD BE EASY TO LURE HIM OUT. I HAVE JUST THE DEVICE THAT WILL DO IT. AND THEN I'LL LET THE DAREDEVIL DECIDE MY FATE.



IT ONLY HAPPENS WHEN I FIND MYSELF TRAPPED IN A MOMENT OF SILENCE.

IF I KEEP BUSY, KEEP MOVING, DOING SHOWS, CASTING ILLUSIONS, FALLING THROUGH STUNTS... THEN I DON'T HEAR A THING.

BUT ONCE IN A WHILE I SLIP UP AND THERE I AM-- OUT ON THE WIRE, OR WALKING DOWN A STREET, AND SUDDENLY ALL IS QUIET... THE DIN OF THE WORLD SNAPS OFF...

# GIPPO'S

## COSTUMES

... AND ONCE AGAIN I'M TRAPPED IN THAT HEARTBREAKING SILENCE...

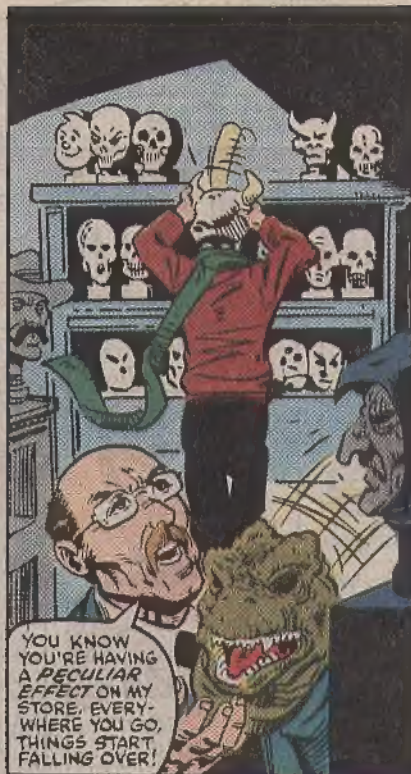
THAT'S WHEN THEY COME, THE WHISPERS...

"GIVE UP" THEY HISS. "GO ON, LIFE IS WHAT'S HARD, THE OTHER WAY IS EASY."

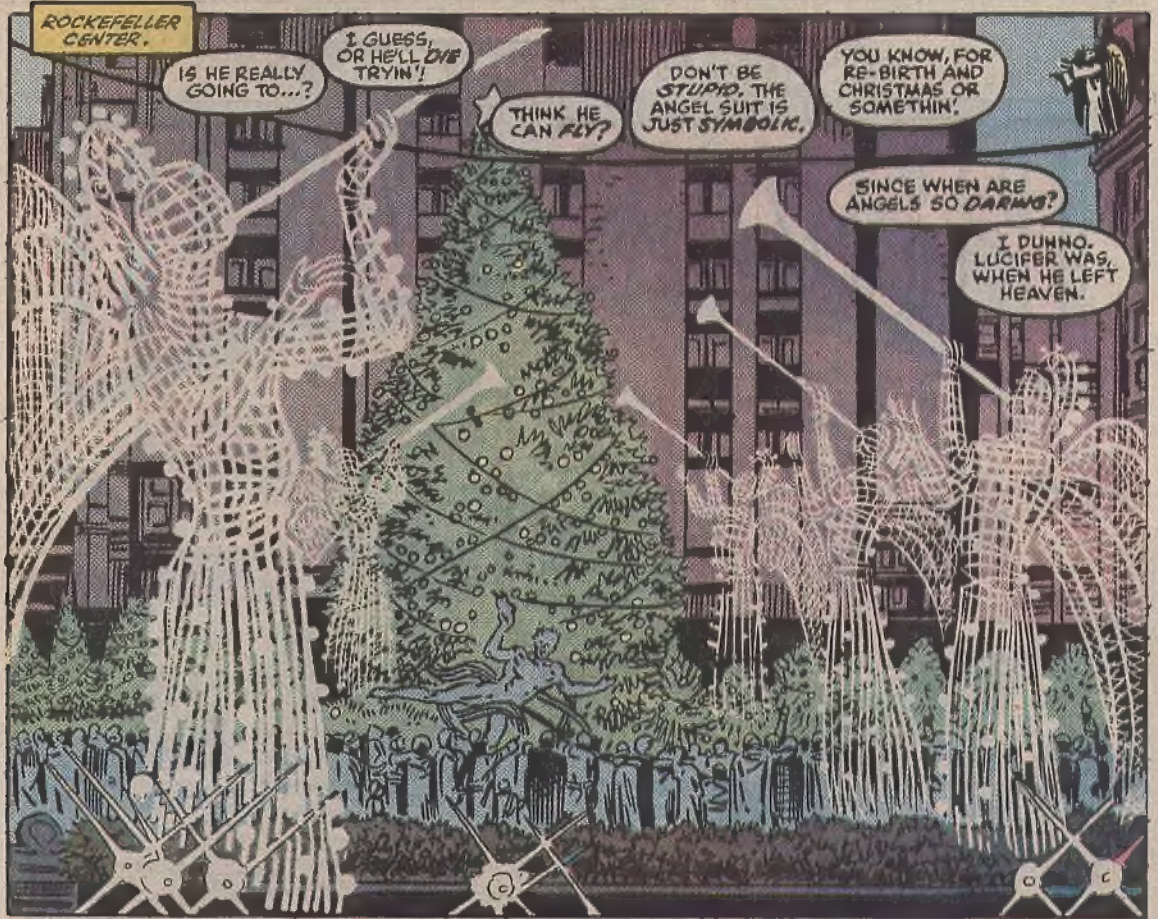
"COME ON, STEP OFF THE HIGH WIRE..."











ROCKEFELLER CENTER.

IS HE REALLY GOING TO...?

I GUESS, OR HE'LL DIE TRYIN'!

THINK HE CAN FLY?

DON'T BE STUPID. THE ANGEL SUIT IS JUST SYMBOLIC.

YOU KNOW, FOR RE-BIRTH AND CHRISTMAS OR SOMETHIN'.

SINCE WHEN ARE ANGELS SO DARING?

I DUNNO. LUCIFER WAS, WHEN HE LEFT HEAVEN.



MAYBE THAT'S WHAT THE SKULL STANDS FOR.

LUCIFER WASN'T DARING. HE WAS BOOTED OUT OF THE KINGDOM.

THIS GUY AIN'T MAKIN' NO STATEMENT.

HE'S IN IT FOR THE BUCKS. WAIT'LL HE PASSES THE HAT.



I DON'T CARE, IT'S EXCITING!

YEAH, HE SURE IS BRAVE!



SO?

WELL, WE COULD ASK TO SEE HIS PERMIT.

BUT WHAT IF HE DOESN'T HAVE ONE?

DO WE ARREST HIM?

ON CHRISTMAS? NO WAY!

SO LET HIM DO HIS STUNT. AND IF HE DIES?

WE LOSE OUR JOBS.



I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT, OFFICERS.





DAREDEVIL!

HEY, OKAY!  
DO WHAT  
YOU CAN...

JOE! THAT'S  
OUR JOB! DID  
HE GO TO THE  
POLICE ACADEMY?  
DID HE SLAVE  
AWAY TO GRADU-  
ATE AND GET  
LICENSED?

NO!! I MEAN,  
WHAT ARE WE,  
CHUMPS?

YOU GUYS  
THINK YOU'RE  
SUPER COPS--  
WELL YOU AIN'T  
EVEN COPS!



YES,  
YES.

SOMETHING  
STRANGE  
ABOUT THAT  
STUNTMAN...

DON'T  
LISTEN TO  
MIKE, HE'S  
JUST JEALOUS  
OF YOU.

HEY, THAT  
GUY UP  
THERE IS  
LIKE A DARE-  
DEVIL, TOO!

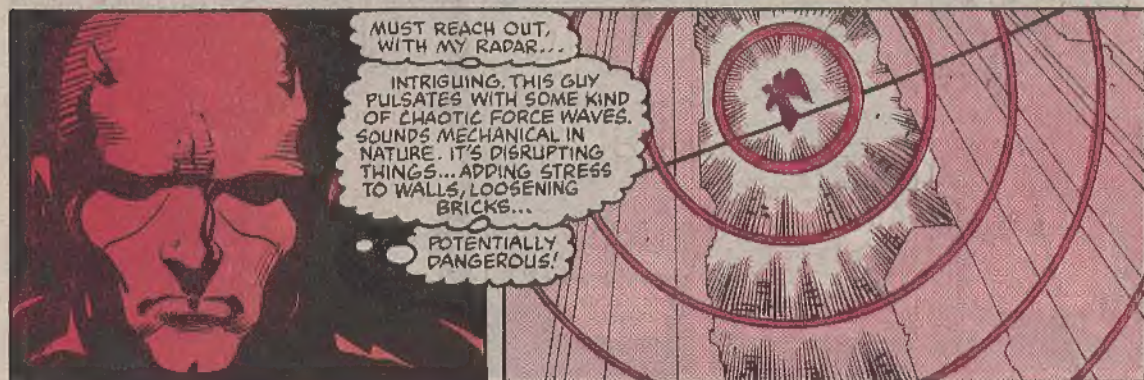
YOU EVER  
PULL STUNTS  
LIKE THAT?

THAT'S YOU  
DAREDEVIL'S  
IDEA OF FUN,  
RIGHT? RISKING  
DEATH AND ALL  
THAT?



WELL, THE  
CROWD SURE  
LIKES A  
DAREDEVIL.

LOOKIT,  
THEY LOVE  
HIM.



MUST REACH OUT,  
WITH MY RADAR...

INTRIGUING. THIS GUY  
PULSATES WITH SOME KIND  
OF CHAOTIC FORCE WAVES.  
SOUNDS MECHANICAL IN  
NATURE. IT'S DISRUPTING  
THINGS... ADDING STRESS  
TO WALLS, LOOSENING  
BRICKS...

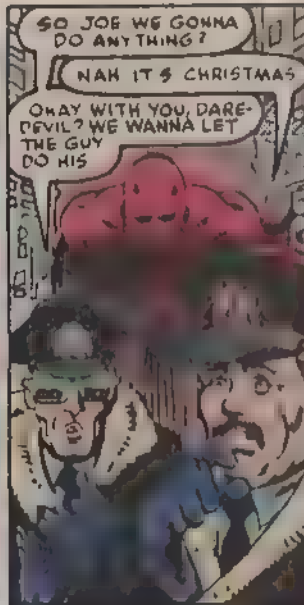
POTENTIALLY  
DANGEROUS!





THE CROWD'S SO INTO THIS--

I'LL PROBABLY LOOK LIKE A REAL VILLAIN FOR SPOILING THEIR FUN.



SO JOE WE GONNA DO ANYTHING?

NAH IT'S CHRISTMAS

OHAY WITH YOU, DAREDEVIL? WE WANNA LET THE GUY DO HIS



DAREDEVIL?

HE'S GONE? MUST'VE RUN OFF.

SEE, JOE, I TOLD YOU!

NOW--IF DAREDEVIL BOTHERS THE TONT MAN, DO WE ARREST HIM?

I DUNNO IT'S CHRISTMAS



STUNTMAN DOESN'T LOOK TOO BALANCED.

I COULD WALK THAT WIRE NO PROBLEM!

LISTEN TO ME PROVING THAT COP RIGHT!

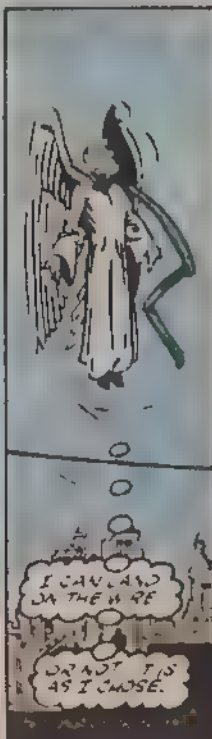
SO HARD TO SEPARATE THE REASONS FOR WHY I DO WHAT I DO

IS SOME OF IT THE CHALLENGE THE CALL TO ADVENTURE?



I'VE DONE THIS STUNT A THOUSAND TIMES

I HAVE COMPLETE CONTROL



I CAN LAND ON THE WIRE

OR NOT IT'S AS I CHOOSE.



LIFE OR DEATH



HEY! I'VE GOT TO BRING YOU DOWN.

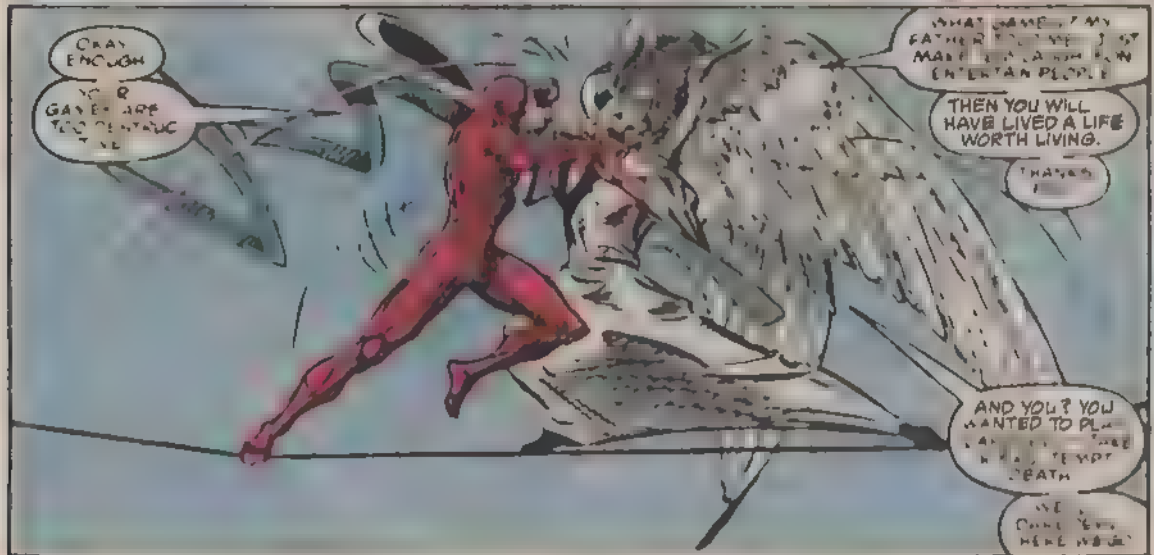
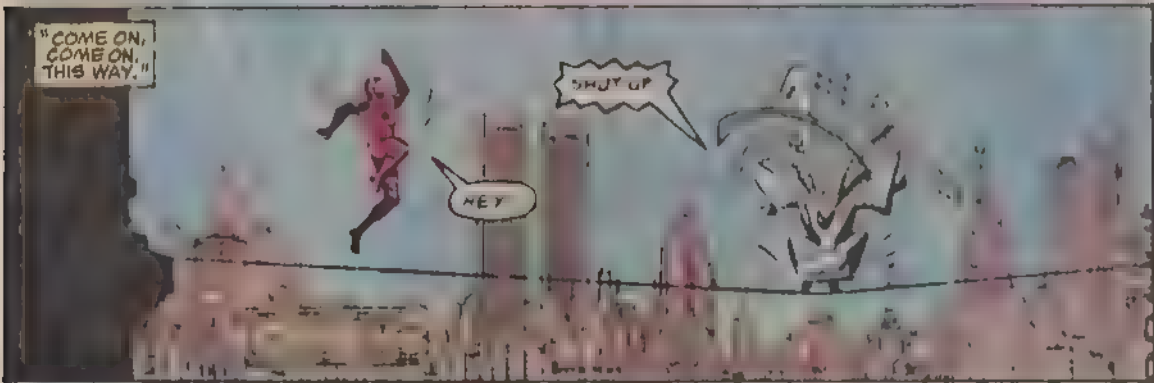
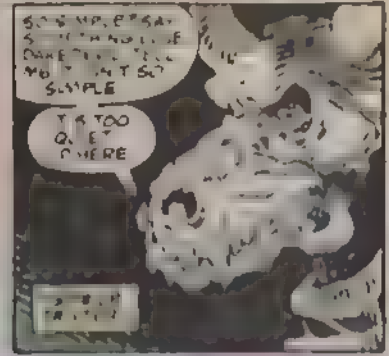
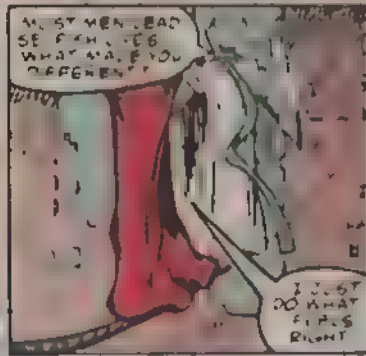
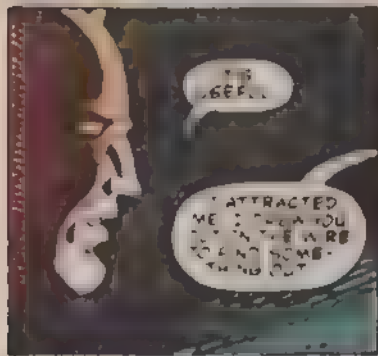
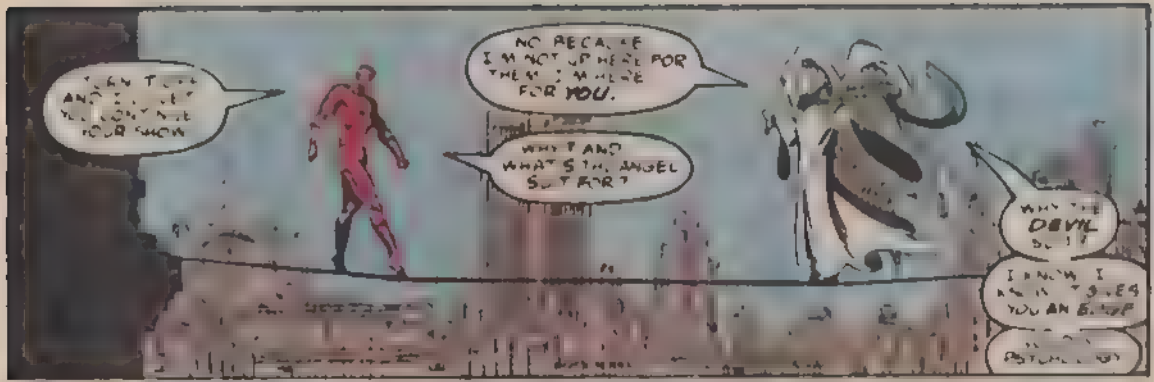
WHY? WE'RE BOTH ON THE SAME WIRE. WHY ARE YOU THE HERO?

ACTUALLY I'M NOT TO HAVE CROWDS DOWN THERE. YOU'RE MAKING THEIR LIVES EXCITING. HOWEVER BRIEFLY I'M ONLY RUINING THEIR FUN

BUT THAT JACKET YOU'RE WEARING THAT'S THIN AS SHAKING EVERYTHING APART THAT YOU'RE NEAR--

- THAT MAKES YOU DANGEROUS









FALLING. ALWAYS  
FALLING.

OR ARE WE  
STANDING  
STILL?

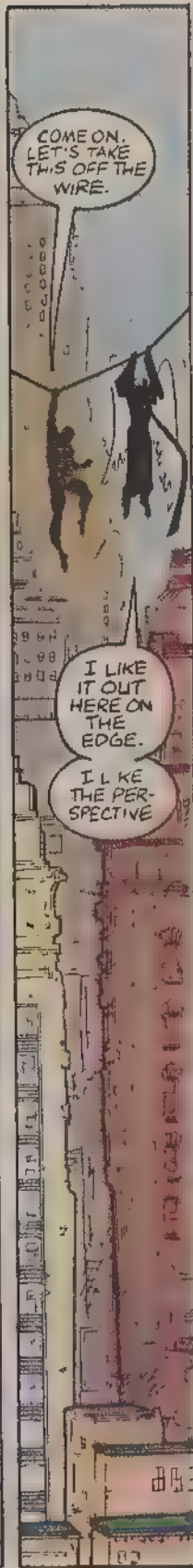
EVEN NOW  
IT'S QUIET.

I'LL LET DAREDEVIL  
WATCH ME FALL

THEN I'LL BE  
REMEMBERED  
IN A HERO'S  
MIND.

NO. WHAT'S  
HE DOING?

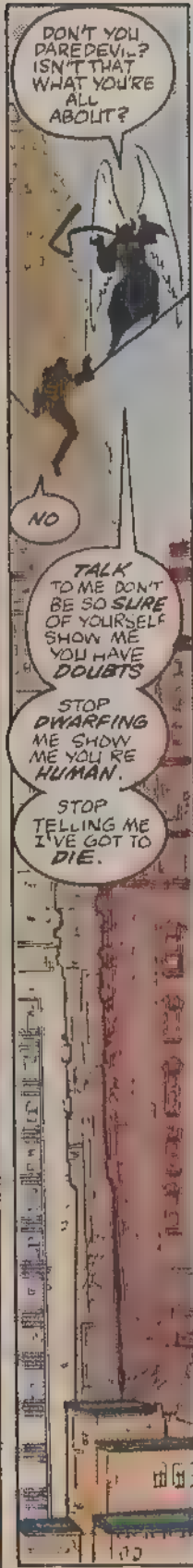
HEY GRABBED  
MY ROBE HE  
WON'T LET ME  
GO



COME ON.  
LET'S TAKE  
THIS OFF THE  
WIRE.

I LIKE  
IT OUT  
HERE ON  
THE  
EDGE.

I LIKE  
THE PER-  
SPECTIVE



DON'T YOU  
DAREDEVIL?  
ISN'T THAT  
WHAT YOU'RE  
ALL  
ABOUT?

NO

TALK  
TO ME DON'T  
BE SO SURE  
OF YOURSELF  
SHOW ME  
YOU HAVE  
DOUBTS

STOP  
DWARFING  
ME SHOW  
ME YOU'RE  
HUMAN.

STOP  
TELLING ME  
I'VE GOT TO  
DIE.

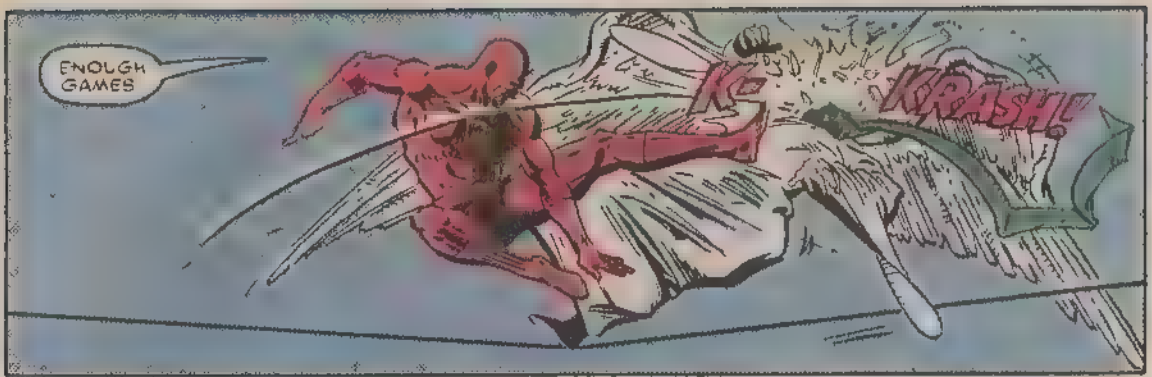


NOBODY'S  
TELLING YOU TO DIE.  
AND I'M NOT HERE TO  
SHOW YOU UP

THAT CROWD  
DOWN THERE LOVES  
YOU. YOU ENTERTAIN  
MAKE PEOPLE  
LAUGH.

I'VE GOT TO  
GET HIM AWAY  
FROM ME!



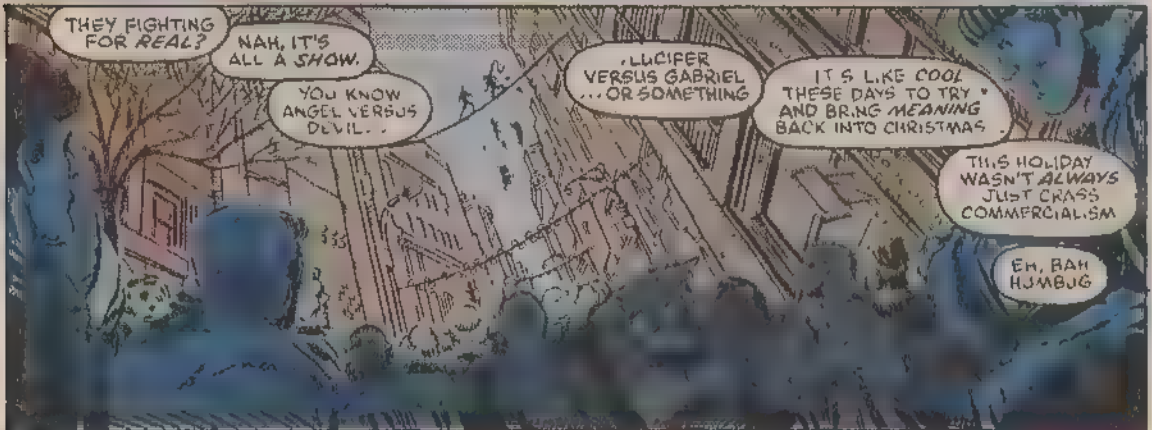
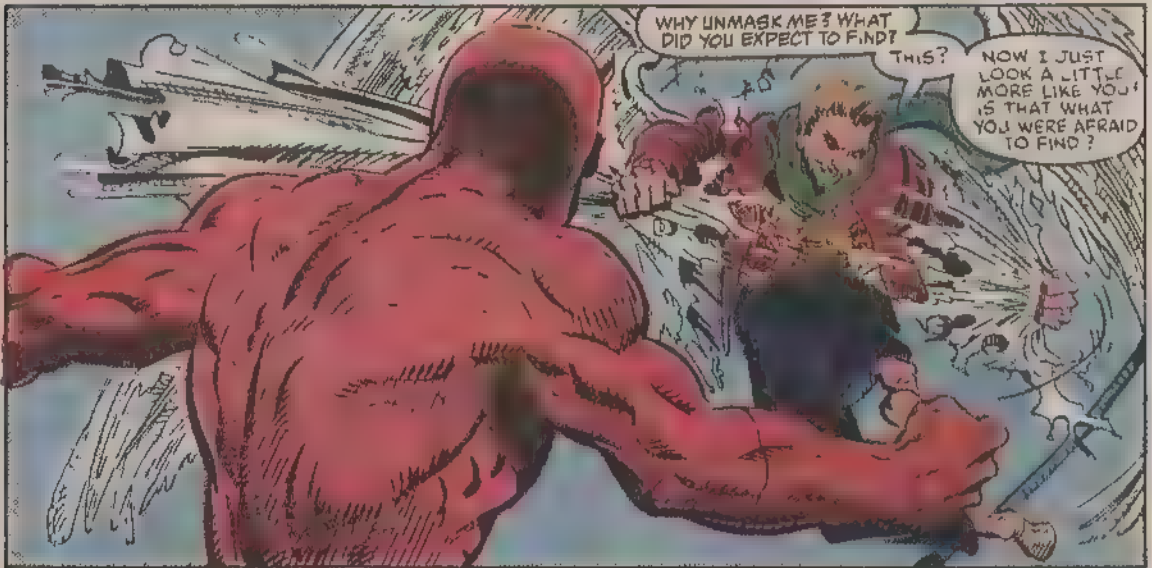


ENOUGH GAMES

WHY UNMASK ME? WHAT DID YOU EXPECT TO FIND?

THIS?

NOW I JUST LOOK A LITTLE MORE LIKE YOU! IS THAT WHAT YOU WERE AFRAID TO FIND?



THEY FIGHTING FOR REAL?

NAH, IT'S ALL A SHOW.

YOU KNOW ANGEL VERSUS DEVIL...

LUCIFER VERSUS GABRIEL ...OR SOMETHING

IT'S LIKE COOL THESE DAYS TO TRY AND BRING MEANING BACK INTO CHRISTMAS

THIS HOLIDAY WASN'T ALWAYS JUST CRASS COMMERCIALISM

EH, BAH HJMBJG

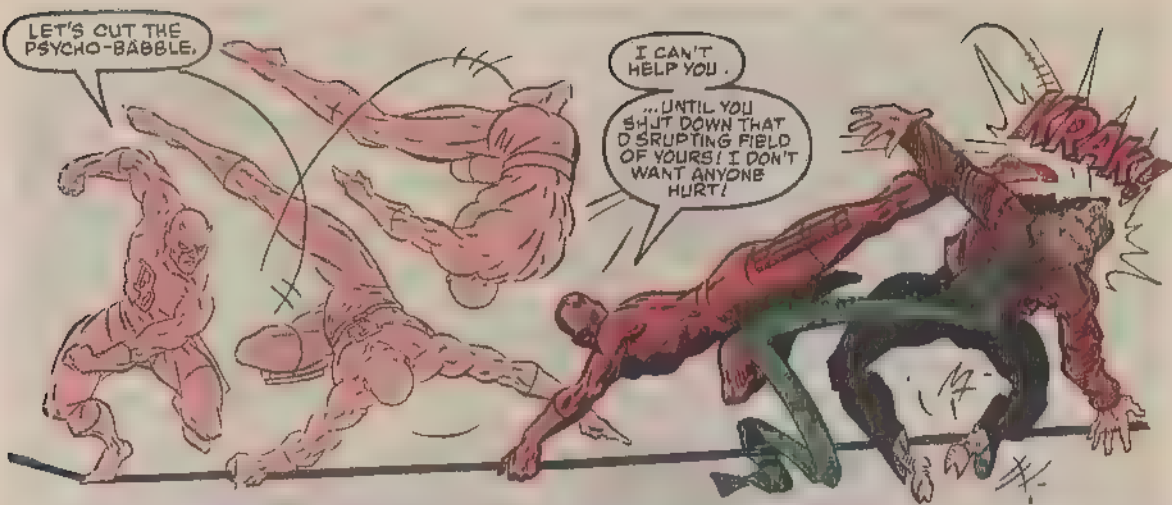


COME ON, DAREDEVIL.

HOW GOOD ARE YOU?

CAN YOU SAVE MY WIFE?

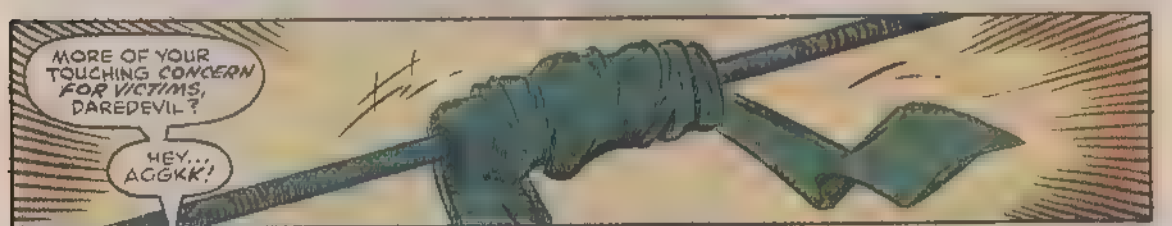




LET'S CUT THE PSYCHO-BABBLE.

I CAN'T HELP YOU.  
...UNTIL YOU SHUT DOWN THAT DISRUPTING FIELD OF YOURS! I DON'T WANT ANYONE HURT!

WPAK!



MORE OF YOUR TOUCHING CONCERN FOR VICTIMS, DAREDEVIL?  
HEY... AGGKK!



OH... NO!  
STILL A HEART-BEAT...



...STILL A CHANCE!  
GET HIM UP...



SO THIS IS WHAT IT IS TO CHOOSE THE HERO'S PATH?  
YOU SAVE PEOPLE WHO DON'T WANT TO BE SAVED?  
YOU'RE SO SURE OF YOURSELF.



WELL, I AM THE TRIKTER!  
THE ONLY THNG I KNOW FOR SURE IS THAT NOTHING S WHAT IT SEEMS



CHRISTMAS  
AFTERNOON

PLEASE, MATT-- THE GUY  
IS BREAKING NO LAWS!

YOU WANT TO HASSLE  
HIM FOR WANTING TO  
CLIMB A BUILDING?

YOU CLIMB  
BUILDINGS  
EVERYDAY!

AND ANYWAY,  
YOU'D BE  
BREAKING THE  
SAME LAW HE  
IS, IF YOU  
CLIMB AFTER  
HIM!

THERE'S STILL  
THE MATTER OF  
HIS FORCE FIELD...  
IT'S DISRUPTING...

ALL T'S  
DONE SO FAR  
IS LOOSEN A  
FEW BRICKS  
YOU SAID SO  
YOURSELF!

YOU DON'T  
UNDERSTAND--  
THE GUY IS  
PLAYING WITH  
MY CITY--

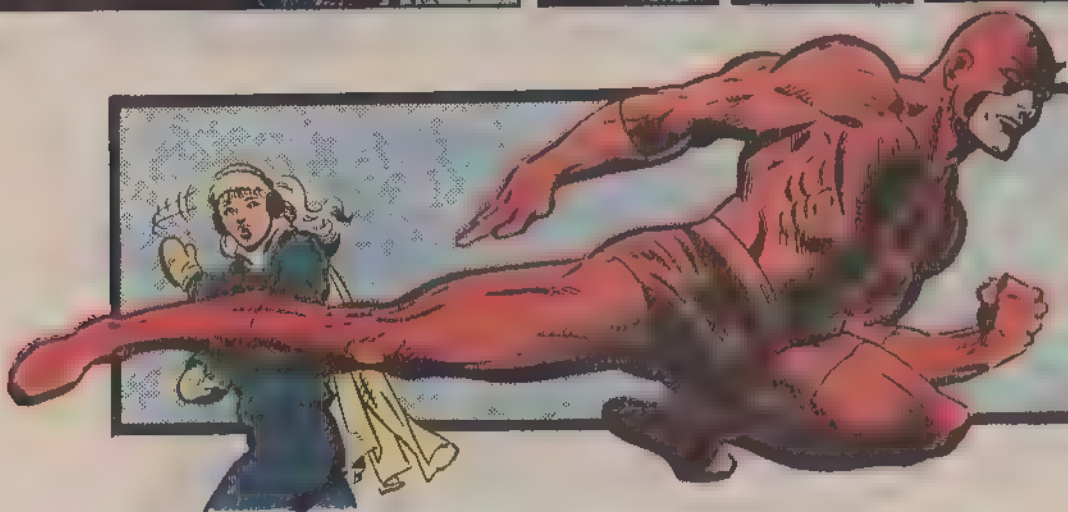
--AND  
I DON'T  
LIKE  
IT.

MATT! IT'S  
CHRISTMAS FOR  
PETE'S SAKE!

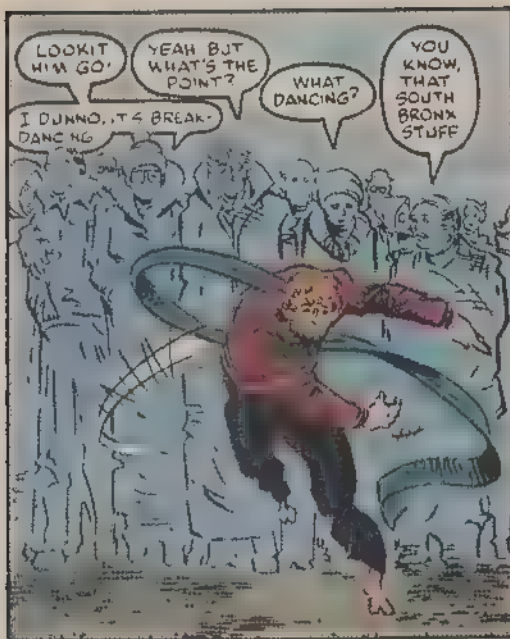
WE'RE SUPPOSE  
TO HAVE CHRIST-  
MAS DINNER  
WITH HILDA  
AND HER NEW  
BOYFRIEND!

AND YOU  
JUST WANT  
TO PLAY--  
LAME!!

I LOVE  
YOU,  
KAREN.







LOOKIT HIM GO!

YEAH BUT WHAT'S THE POINT?

WHAT DANCING?

YOU KNOW, THAT SOUTH BRONX STUFF

I DUNNO, IT'S BREAK-DANCING



OH, Y HE'S ADDED WAR-PAINT AND MADE IT LIKE A RITUAL

WATCH-- HE'LL GO DOWN NOW AND SPIN ON HIS BACK



SEE-?

YEAH!



TA-DA!  
THANK YOU,  
THANK YOU!

AND NOW I SHALL CLIMB TO THE TOP OF THE CHRYSLER BUILDING

--AND CONTINUE THE RITUAL!

JUST FOR YOU NEW YORK--I'M GOING TO MAKE IT SNOW!

I'M GOING TO RISK MY LIFE FORKS--JUST FOR YOUR AMUSEMENT



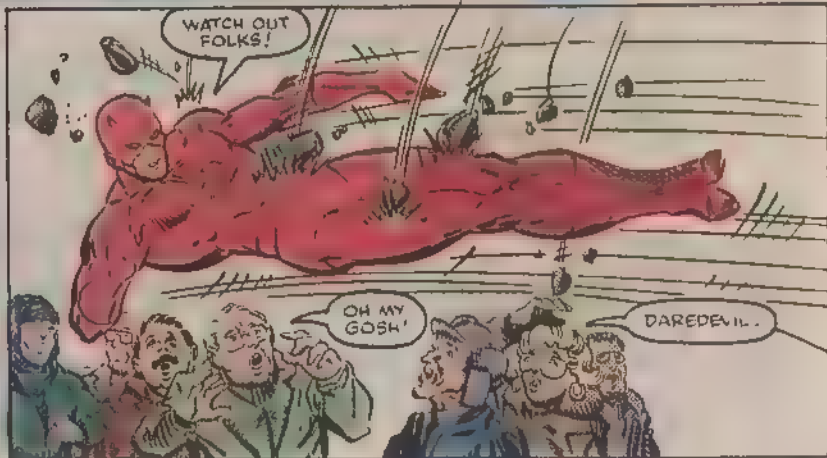
OH, GEEZ

DON'T BE STUPID, HE'S JUST CRAZY.

DO YOU THINK IT'LL SNOW?

BUT I HEARD OF A MACHINE ONCE--SOME ELECTRO-IMPULSE GADGET THAT CAN BRING DOWN SNOW THAT'S JUST HANGIN' UP THERE.

IT DOESN'T MATTER IF IT WORKS OR NOT THE GUY'S DRAMATIC. HE'S EXCITING--HE'S MAKING THIS A CHRISTMAS WE'LL ALL REMEMBER!

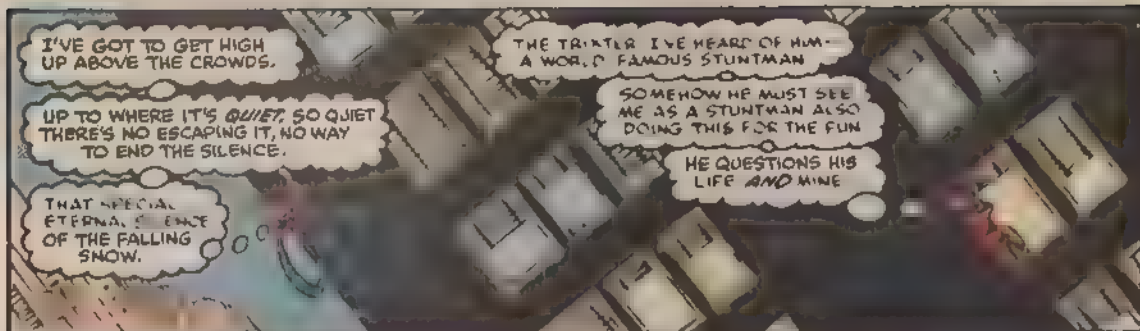


WATCH OUT FOLKS!

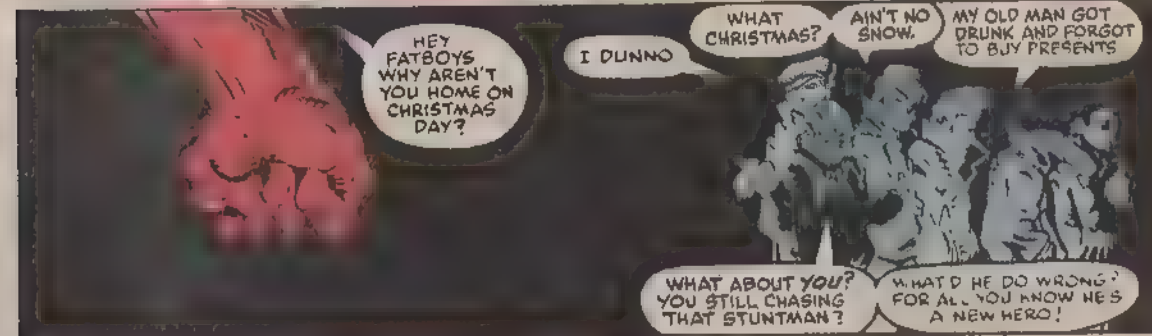
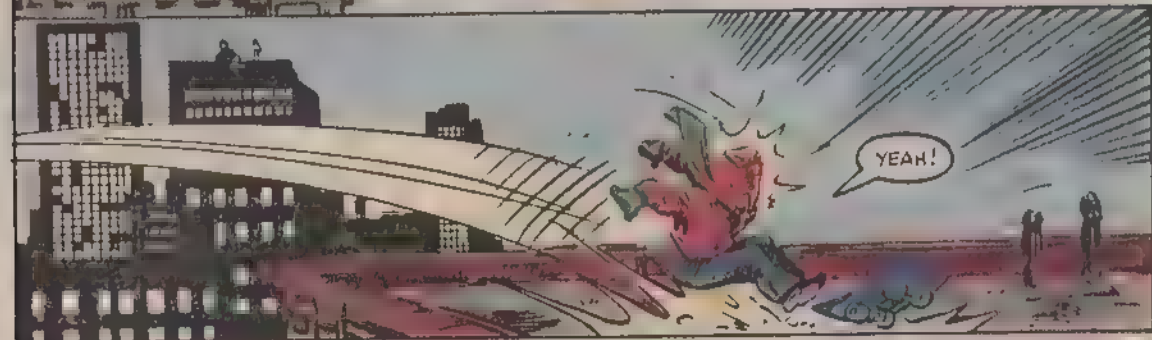
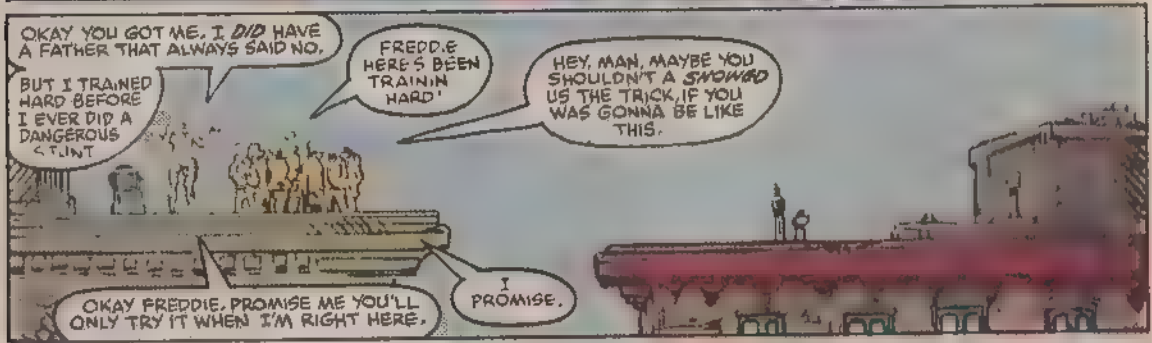
OH MY GOSH!

DAREDEVIL..

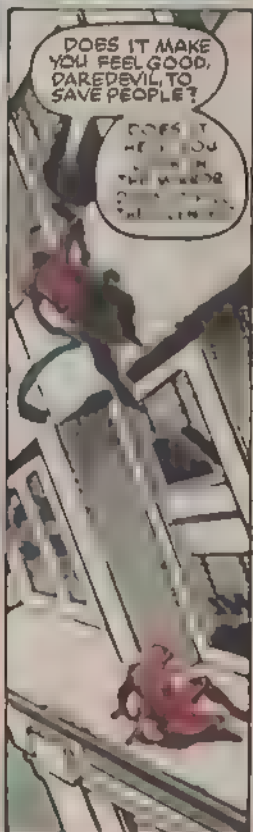
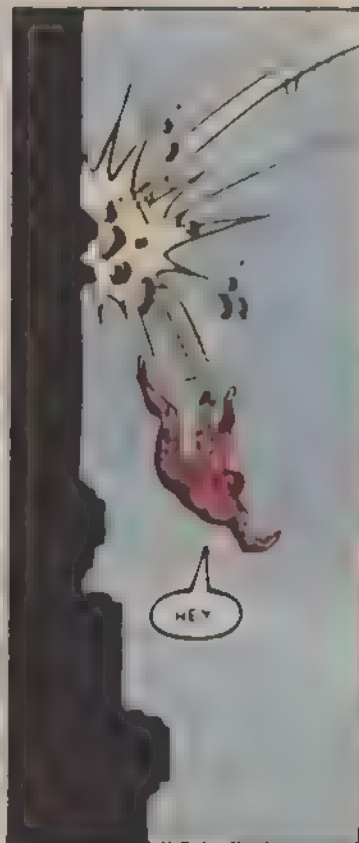
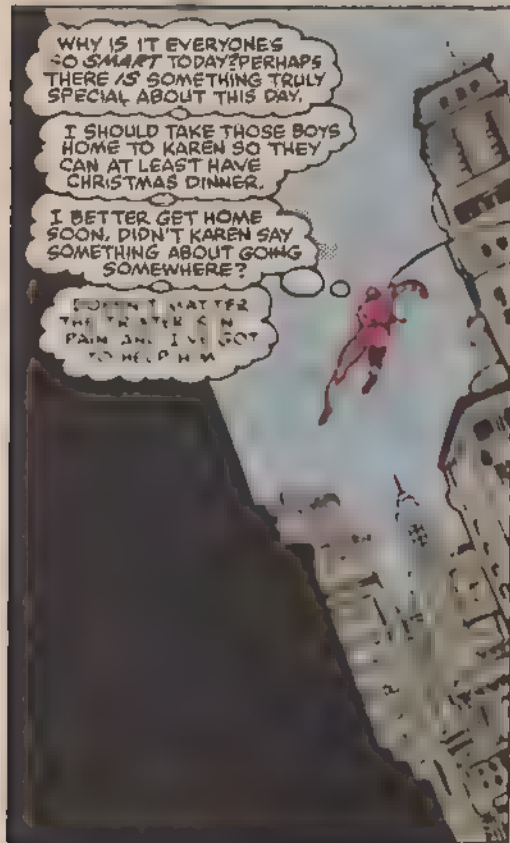




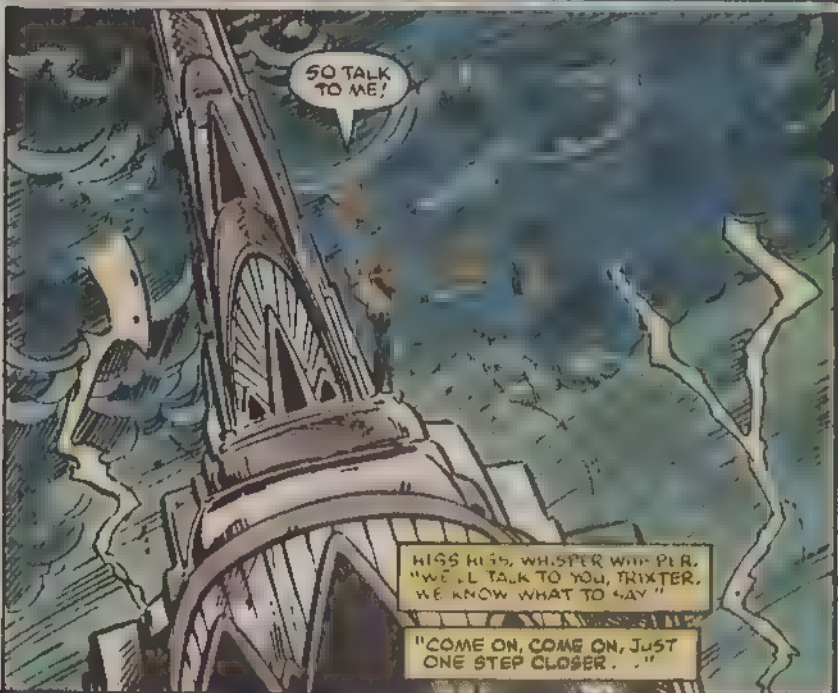
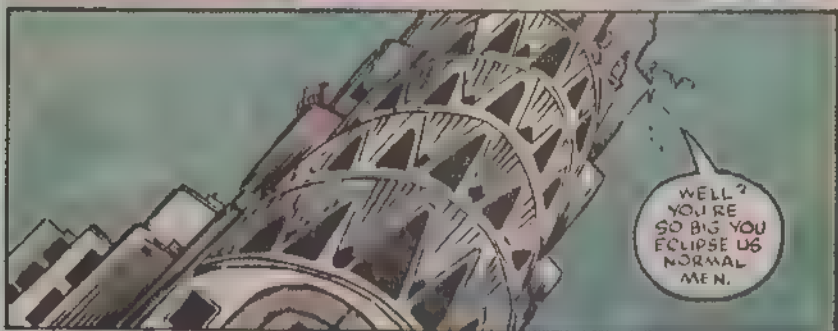
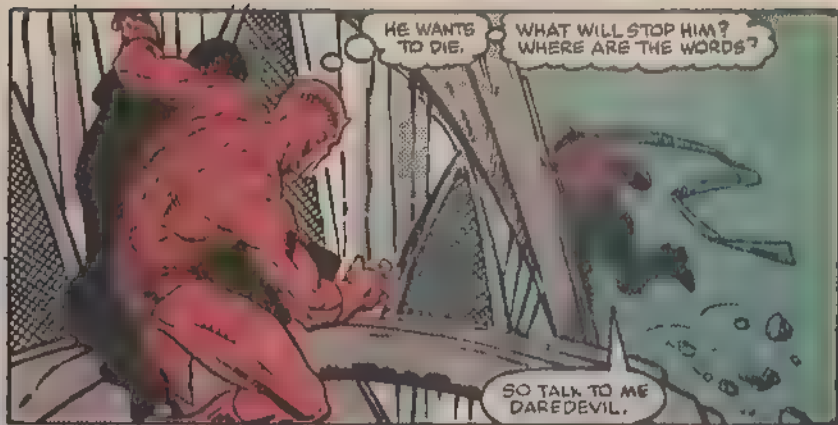








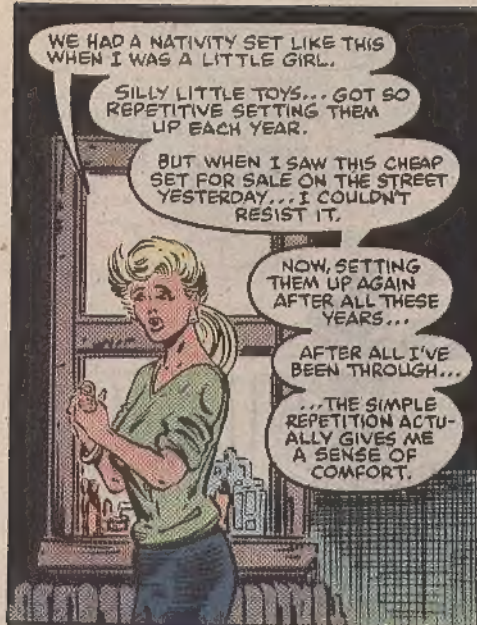












WE HAD A NATIVITY SET LIKE THIS WHEN I WAS A LITTLE GIRL.

SILLY LITTLE TOYS... GOT SO REPETITIVE SETTING THEM UP EACH YEAR.

BUT WHEN I SAW THIS CHEAP SET FOR SALE ON THE STREET YESTERDAY... I COULDN'T RESIST IT.

NOW, SETTING THEM UP AGAIN AFTER ALL THESE YEARS...

AFTER ALL I'VE BEEN THROUGH...

...THE SIMPLE REPETITION ACTUALLY GIVES ME A SENSE OF COMFORT.



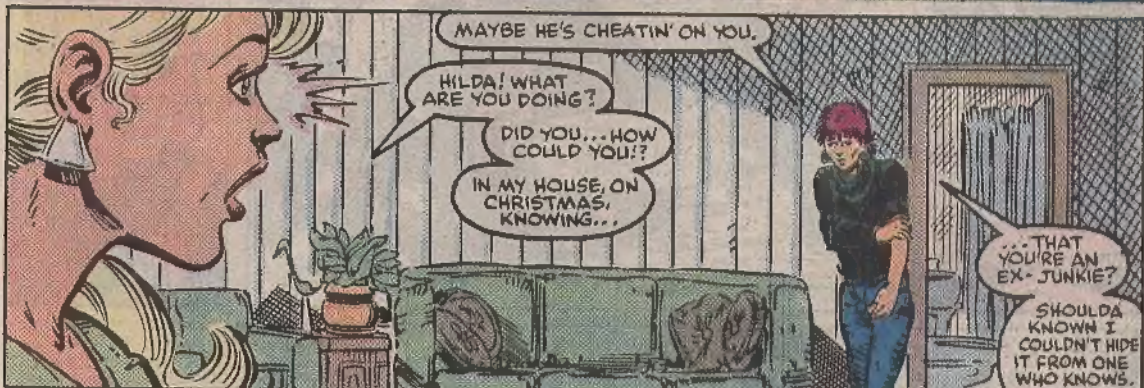
I GUESS THAT'S WHAT MAKES RITUALS SO BEAUTIFUL.

JESUS IS ALWAYS TUCKED IN HIS CRADLE, AND MARY...



...MARY IS ETERNALLY STANDING GUARD...

SURE WISH MATT WOULD GET HOME, WHERE IS HE ANYWAY?



MAYBE HE'S CHEATIN' ON YOU.

HILDA! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

DID YOU... HOW COULD YOU!?

IN MY HOUSE, ON CHRISTMAS, KNOWING...

...THAT YOU'RE AN EX-JUNKIE?

SHOULDA KNOWN I COULDN'T HIDE IT FROM ONE WHO KNOWS.



I'M SORRY, KAREN, I KNOW IT'S HORRIBLE OF ME...

BUT I WAS SO MISERABLE, AND WEAK...

I JUST CAN'T BELIEVE BOFFO STOOD ME UP-- ON CHRISTMAS!



HEY, LISTEN-- I KNOW IT'S REALLY NO COMFORT...

...BUT IT LOOKS LIKE MATT HAS STOOD ME UP, TOO!

COME ON, WHO NEEDS 'EM!

WE'LL GO OUT AND HAVE US A NICE DINNER, WITH ALL THE TRIMMINGS...



HEY, LOOK--

HILDA, COME TO THE WINDOW--

--IT'S SNOWING!

COME ON, LET'S GO WALK IN THE SNOW!





THE TRIKTER.

HE SOUGHT ME OUT  
BECAUSE I STOOD FOR  
SOMETHING HE THOUGHT  
WAS BETTER THAN HIM.

PERHAPS...AM I NOT  
CAREFUL ENOUGH OF THE  
IMAGE I PRESENT...?

IF THIS IS THE EFFECT  
I HAVE ON PEOPLE...

WHY COULDN'T I FIND  
THE WORDS TO SAVE HIM?

PERHAPS IT WAS ONE  
MORE TRICK. IF I PULL  
APART THAT CORPSE  
BEHIND ME I MAY FIND  
IT'S JUST A MAGICIAN'S  
DUMMY.



WHAT'S  
THIS, A  
HEARTBEAT?  
IS HE BACK?



HEY!  
YOU LOOK  
LIKE A  
STATUE!

HELLO  
FREDDIE.

WHATSAMATTER?  
YOU SAD OR  
SOMETHING?



OH, GEEZ, I GUESS  
GUYS LIKE YOU HAVE  
NOWHERE TO GO ON  
CHRISTMAS. HUH?  
WELL NEITHER DO I!

I CAN CHEER  
YOU UP!



LOOK! IT'S SNOWING!  
CAN'T YOU SEE IT?

WE GOT  
A WHITE  
CHRISTMAS  
AFTER  
ALL! SEE?  
WOW,  
IT'S SO  
QUIET!



LUCKY ME, I'M THE ONLY GUY  
WHO CAN HEAR IT FALLING.

HEY, LET'S  
PLAY IN IT!

I LEARNED  
THE SKATE-  
BOARD  
TRICK REAL  
GOOD.



YOU GOT  
ANY MORE  
TRICKS YOU  
CAN TEACH  
ME?

NEXT: NEW YORK IS AT THE MERCY OF-- THE CAVIAR KILLER!



